Apple scab

**Cause:** *Venturia inequalis* (fungus)

**Hosts:** Crabapples and apple vary widely in their resistance to scab. Related (but different) species of the fungus that cause apple scab produce scab on hawthorn, mountain ash and pyracantha.

**Symptoms:** Symptoms (below) appear as velvety, olive green spots on leaves varying in size from a pinhead to 1/2 inch. As lesions enlarge, they run together and form larger areas. Leaves turn yellow and drop off in mid summer. Severely affected trees can be nearly defoliated by September. Fruits may also develop rough, corky, brown spots.

![Image of apple scab symptoms](image)

**How it’s spread:** The fungus produces two types of spores. Sexual spores are produced on fallen leaves infected the previous year, to infect new leaves by wind and splashing rain. Subsequent infections spread on the tree through asexual spores (called conidia) via wind and rainsplash. The disease is more severe in years with wet spring weather.
Apple scab continued

Management: Rake up and remove infected leaves from underneath trees. Avoid overhead watering. Apple scab is never fatal but disfigures the tree and reduces vigor. Plant resistant cultivars where possible; see listing below. Registered fungicides can be applied preventatively at 2-week intervals beginning at budbreak until after petal fall.

Resistant crabapples may develop spots on their leaves, but retain their leaves, so the scab is less noticeable.
